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THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SEEKS COMMENTS ON THE

BALLY GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION SUPERFUND SITE

PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

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The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking comments on the proposed remedial action plan for the Bally Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site.

This proposed plan presents actions that EPA has considered with regard to public concern related to the Bally Groundwater Contamination Site in the Borough of Bally, Berks County, Pennsylvania. These actions were identified by Remedial Investigation Reports and a Feasibility Study which were prepared to evaluate the extent of the contamination problem at the site, the potential risks to the public health and the environment and the steps to be taken to correct the problem.

The Borough of Bally is located in Berks County, Pennsylvania near the Philadelphia metropolitan area. In 1982, the Bally Municipal Water Authority conducted a water quality check of the Bally water system and discovered the presence of elevated concentrations of chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in Bally Municipal Well No. 3. A survey conducted in 1983 by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources indicated the Bally Engineered Structures, Inc. (BES) plant was a potential source of the VOC contamination. Bally Municipal Well No. 3 was removed from the municipal supply system in December 1982 as a result of the presence of VOCs, most notably 1,1,1, - trichloroethane (TCA) and trichloroethene (TCE), both commonly used industrial degreasers.

BES signed a Consent Order with EPA in January 1987 to conduct the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at this site with EPA oversight to define the problem and provide alternate ways to mitigate the problem. Groundwater has become the focus of the remediation since no significant contamination source has been located on the facility property according to the completed studies mentioned above.

Two alternatives were specifically developed to address the groundwater contamination at the site. These alternatives were identified and evaluated according to the criteria required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, ("CERCLA, as amended") and the National Contingency Plan (NCP).

The following remedial action alternatives were developed, each providing a different degree of remediation:

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Alternative No. 1 - Minimal/No Action: This alternative is comprised of:

1. Abandoning appropriate existing private wells and implementing restrictions on the use of operable private wells and the construction of new wells;
2. Conducting public education programs to increase public awareness about the presence of these restrictions;
3. Performing groundwater and surface water monitoring to measure contaminant concentrations and migration and performing semiannual site inspections.

Alternative No. 2 - Groundwater Extraction and Treatment and Alternative Water Supply: This alternative is comprised of:

1. Abandoning appropriate existing private wells and and implementing restrictions on the use of operable private wells and the construction of new wells,
2. Performing groundwater and surface water monitoring to measure containment concentrations and migrations;
3. Removing contaminated groundwater from the aquifer through continuous pumping of Municipal Well No. 3 and treating the extracted groundwater by one of the treatment options retained for consideration;
4. Discharging the treated water from Municipal Well No. 3 to the adjacent stream or into the Borough of Bally potable water system, as needed to provide a suitable alternative water supply;
5. Performing necessary additional studies in the pre-design phase to evaluate the optimal configuration of any additional groundwater extraction well(s) required.

Recommendations for Remedial Actions

Alternative No. 2 is recommended since it is the most protective, technically feasible, practical and effective remedial action for the Bally Groundwater Contamination site.

A proposed plan which discusses these remedies in more detail is being distributed to solicit public comment regarding the proposed remedial alternatives to clean up the contamination at this site.

Even more detailed information on all of the material discussed here may be found in the documents contained in the Administrative Record (AR) for the site. Copies of these documents are available for review at the following information repository location:

Bally Borough Business Office
South Seventh Street
Bally, PA 19503
215/845-2351

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The public comment period will run from May 21, 1989 to June 19, 1989. If a public meeting is requested or if you have any written comments, questions or requests for information, please contact:

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Requests for a public meeting should be made by June 1st.

Following the conclusion of the 30-day public comment period on this proposed remedy, a Responsiveness Summary will be prepared. The Responsiveness Summary will summarize citizen's comments on the proposed remedy and provide EPA's responses to these comments. Thereafter, EPA will prepare a formal decision document that summarizes the decision process and the selected remedy. This document will include the Responsiveness Summary. Copies will be made available, for public review, in the information repository listed previously.

This site was evaluated through the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) and subsequently placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1986. The NPL is a list of hazardous waste sites targeted for action under the Superfund program.

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